Joshua Tree & Migratory Birds Dodge Bullet

Solar power towers pose extraordinary threat.

Joan Taylor, San Gorgonio Chapter Litigation Chair

There is a giant experiment being conducted in the California desert where scores of super-sized renewable energy projects on the order of 5 to 20 square miles per project, are being proposed mostly on pristine federal desert lands. No one with any biological background can deny the extensive landscape-level threats these pose.

Not so well known is one aspect of this experiment that has the potential to become the Frankenstein of renewable energy; namely, giant solar thermal “power towers.” These contraptions are not photovoltaic solar panels (PV). Unlike PV, these power towers are hundreds of feet high, involve thousands of tracking mirrors, are very expensive to build and operate, and basically superheat fluids to 1000 degrees Fahrenheit to run a conventional generator. Also unlike PV, this process consumes significant amounts of natural gas and water to operate.

Power towers have an especially scary side. With their incredibly bright glow, they are thought to function as “mega traps” for birds. Their bright light lures millions of insects and thus their bird predators towards the huge cone of heat surrounding the towers, where the birds succumb with singed wings and curled feathers caused by straying into the intense cone of heat surrounding the power towers. Credit: US Fish & Wildlife Service

Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is out for review and comment.

Info and meeting schedule:

What: DRECP is intended to facilitate developing renewable energy in the California desert while protecting biological resources. The Plan covers 22 million acres of land in Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties.

Where: The draft DRECP and environmental documents are available at drecp.org. Click on “documents.”

When: The deadline for public comments is January 9, 2015

Why: Electric utilities, the state and the BLM seek to promote large-scale renewable energy development in the desert.

Public meetings will be held in affected counties, including the following two locations in Chapter: Meetings will include a presentation, information stations and an opportunity to submit recorded verbal and written comments. Some of these meetings will also be broadcast by WebEx to allow for remote attendance. Please visit www.drecp.org to confirm meeting details and WebEx availability.

Thursday, November 6, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Ontario Convention Center
2000 E. Convention Center Way
Ontario, CA 91764

Friday, November 7, 4:00-6:30 p.m.
UC Riverside, Palm Desert Center Auditorium
75080 Frank Sinatra Dr.
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Individuals may comment on DRECP in the manner they deem appropriate. Comments on behalf of Sierra Club will be coordinated with other environmental organizations and are required by law to be consistent with the Club’s Renewable Project Siting Policy.
Contact Us . . .
San Gorgonio Chapter Website: http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org
San Gorgonio Chapter Executive Director: Rick Eaton 951-314-3328
........................................scsiorgmail.com
CC Chair, Delegate, Steve Farrell 661-449-2867
............................................mr_sif@ymail.com
Secretary ..........Kim Floyd 760-680-9479
........................................Kimfloyd@fastmail.fm
Treasurer ..........Ladd Seikins 909-825-4427
........................................ladd.seikins@gmail.com
Conservation Chair ..........Kim Floyd 760-680-9479
........................................kimfloyd@fastmail.fm
Litigation Chair ..........Joan Taylor
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Jeff Morgan ..........................760-324-8696
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Moreno Valley:
Jenny Wilder ..........................760-220-0730
.........................................jennusis@aol.com
Mary Ann Ruiz ........................909-815-9379
.........................................barriemail@mac.com
Santa Margarita Group:
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.........................................sierraclub@redlands.org
CNRCC Delegates
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Tahquitz Group:
........................................Jeff Morgan 760-324-8806
Santa Margarita Group:
........................................Jim Mitchell 951-506-9607
.........................................sierraclub@redlands.org
San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot

Voter Instructions
Please indicate your vote on this ballot, cut out
and mail so it is received by
November 24, 2014, at 12 noon.
Mail to: Sierra Club
PO Box 708, Blue Jay, CA 92317-0708

Remember to print your name and address and
sign your name on the outside of the envelope so
ballots can be verified. If two ballots from a joint membership are enclosed, be
sure to print name and address and sign for each ballot.

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot
(First Ballot)
(Second Ballot) (Joint Member)

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot
(Please vote for 5 or fewer)

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot
(Please vote for 5 or fewer)

Voter Information
Sierra Club’s Harwood Lodge near San
Riverside, CA was held at the
in Southern California was held at the
Sierra Club’s Harwood Lodge near San
Anton Barindono

Chapter Conservation Issue Chairs

Desert Issues – High Desert
Kim Floyd 760-680-9479

Desert Issues – Low Desert
Joan Taylor

Forest Issues – Cleveland NF
Gene Fixx 951-689-2283

Water Issues.
Steve Farrell 661-449-2867

California Wild Heritage Campaign
Joyce Burk 760-252-3820

Group Directory
Big Bear Group:
Chair – Ed Wallace 909-584-9407

Meet 1st Thursday, Discovery Center
North Shore, 6:30 p.m.

Meet 3rd Tuesday Upland Presbyterian
Church, Ed Building 7 p.m.

Meet 3rd Thursday, Discovery Center
North Shore, 6:30 p.m.

Meet 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug.
Sterling Inn, Regency Room
17738 Franclea, Victorville 7 p.m.
(just north of Bear Valley and Ridgecrest)
(ask for contact—and 2008@yahoo.com)

Chair – Michael Mullispaugh 951-653-2086

Mountains Group:
Chair – Dave Barrie 909-337-0313
Barriemail@mac.com
Meet 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m.
Except Aug. & Dec. St. Richard’s
Episcopal Church, 2938 Hwy 18, Sky Forest

San Gorgonio Chapter

The Palm and Pine is published bimonthly.
Periodicals postage paid at Riverside, CA

There is a membership coupon in this issue and address change information above.
For other questions, contact the Sierra Club at (415) 977-5663 or ralphsalsbury@att.net

C hantal Biancardi and Tracey
Walters (pictured I to R below) will share their experiences at
Sprog this past summer.
Chantal is a political
student leader, this group
connects them to a supportive network
of passionate peers, teaches them how to
confront oppression and
create inclusive spaces for people
of all backgrounds, and
helps them to develop their
different personal potential
as leaders.

From a 13-year-old activist
to a 23-year-old student leader, this
group had so many valuable
and enriching perspectives
to add to the learning
process! -

A nationally recognized activist
training program, Sprog provides its trainees with “a unique space to
get the tools they need to launch and
lead campaigns that win real change,
connects them to a supportive network
of passionate peers, teaches them how to
confront oppression and
create inclusive spaces for people
of all backgrounds, and
helps them to develop their
different personal potential
as leaders.”

Each summer about 200 young people attend Sprog trainings in every region of the
country. This last summer’s Sprog in
Southern California was held at the
Sierra Club’s Harwood Lodge near San
Antonio Falls above Mt. Baldy Village.

Palm and Pine
November/December 2014
Page 2

C hantal Biancardi and Tracey
Walters (pictured I to R below)
will share their experiences at
Sprog this past summer. Sprog is the
summer grassroots leadership training program
conducted by the Sierra Club’s
Student Coalition. The program begins at 7:30
PM Tuesday, November 4, at the San Bernardino
County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands.

Chantal is a political
student leader, this group
connects them to a supportive network
of passionate peers, teaches them how to
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create inclusive spaces for people
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San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot
(First Ballot)
(Second Ballot) (Joint Member)

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot
(First Ballot)
(Second Ballot) (Joint Member)

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot
(First Ballot)
(Second Ballot) (Joint Member)
In consideration for my acceptance as a participant on this Outing, & the services & amenities to appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person & for others around me in the natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders & assistants or or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries & Damages can occur by be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the Outing. These inherent risks include, I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a Sign-In Sheet & Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Express Assumption liability waiver:

WHAT TO BRING
Many Outings specify items to be carried by EACH participant. Do not attend Outings without the specified items unless you have first discussed it with the leader. Often the TEN ESSENTIALS are required. The following are the TEN ESSENTIALS:
1) map, 2) compass, 3) flashlight, 4) knife, 5) windproof/waterproof matches in waterproof case, 6) fire starter, 7) first aid kit, 8) extra food & water for emergency use only, 9) extra clothing including rainwear, & 10) sun protection including sunscreen/sunglasses/hat.

ADVENTURE PASS SPECIAL NOTICE
Most outings occurring in the San Bernardino, Angeles, Cleveland, or Los Padres National Forests require a Forest Service permit for each vehicle (Adventure Pass). They are indicated by ** in the calendar. Be sure to contact the leader regarding permits. The permits cost $30 per year or $5 per day; however they may not be obtainable the day of your Outing. If you arrive at the meeting place without making arrangements with the leader & you don’t have a permit or find a ride in a vehicle with a permit, you will not be able to attend the outing. You are expected to share the cost of the daily permits equally among everyone in the vehicle. You can be assessed $50 contribution from everyone for annual permits (above normal mileage contribution). America the Beautiful Interagency Passes may be used in lieu of Adventure Pass.

CARPOOLING POLICY
In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements & assumes no liability for the insurance, ride sharing, or anything similar in its place, call MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379, <ruizmaryann@gmail.com>.

LIABILITY WAIVER
In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign the following liability waiver:

Sign-In Sheet & Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Express Assumption of Risk, & Release of Liability I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards & risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each Outing & cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the Outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, & death (“Injuries & Damages”) from exposure to the hazards of travel & the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries & Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders & assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries & Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Sierra Club Outings & I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person & for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this Outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries & Damages to which I may be exposed.

In consideration for my acceptance as a participant on this Outing, & the services & amenities to be provided by the Sierra Club in connection with the Outing, I confirm my understanding that I have: read any rules & conditions applicable to the Outing made available to me; I will pay any costs & fees for the Outing; & I acknowledge my participation is at the discretion of the leader. The Outing begins & ends at the location where the Outing officially commences with leader & participants in attendance, as designated by the Sierra Club (“Trailhead”). The Outing does not include any carpooling, transportation, or transit to & from the Trailhead, & I am personally responsible for all risks associated with this travel. This does not apply to transportation provided by the Sierra Club after the commencement & before the end of the Outing.

If I decide to leave early & not to complete the Outing as planned, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to leave & waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision. Likewise, if the leader has concluded the Outing, & I decide to go forward without the leader, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to go forward & waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision.

This Agreement is intended to be as broad & inclusive as is permitted by law. If any provision or any part of any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or legally unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby & shall be valid & fully enforceable.

To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, & RELEASE FROM LIABILITY, & to INDEMNIFY & HOLD HARMLESS & RELEASE FROM LIABILITY, & to INDEMNIFY & HOLD HARMLESS THE SIERRA CLUB, its officers, directors, employees, agents, & leaders from any & all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries & Damages, even if caused by negligence of the Sierra Club or its officers, directors, employees, agents, & leaders, in any way connected with this Outing. I understand & intend that this assumption of risk & release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators & assigns, & includes any minors accompanying me on the Outing.

I have read this document in its entirety & I freely & voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries & Damages & notwithstanding such risks, I agree to participate in the Outing.

Note: If the participant is a minor, the minor’s guardian must sign on the minor’s behalf.

CALFIRE INTERAGENCY PERMITS
Interagency Passes may be used in lieu of Adventure Pass. They are: 1) map, 2) compass, 3) flashlight, 4) knife, 5) windproof/waterproof matches in waterproof case, 6) fire starter, 7) first aid kit, 8) extra food & water for emergency use only, 9) extra clothing including rainwear, & 10) sun protection including sunscreen/sunglasses/hat.

Los Padres National Forests require a Forest Service permit for each vehicle or a suggested $.50 contribution from everyone for annual permits (above normal mileage contribution). America the Beautiful Interagency Passes may be used in lieu of Adventure Pass.
MON 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP CONDITIONING HIKE

Please join me for a 3 to 6 mile conditioning walk (usually 3 miles) beside the Mojave River in Apple Valley. We leave promptly at 7 PM. MEET: In the Jess Ranch Marketplace parking lot closest to the Jess Ranch Road between the Jess Ranch Canvas and Bed, Bath & Beyond Store, address: 18185 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308. Light post location is 158. Continue on the Orr Museum Rd/262 to a shady gap (6645'). Stop location is 154. Bring: Flashlight & water. Wear: layered clothing and comfortable hiking shoes. For questionnaire please call LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 961-0731. MOJAVE GROUP

WED 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP CONDITIONING HIKE

Please join me for a 3 to 6 mile conditioning walk (usually 3 miles) beside the Mojave River in Apple Valley. We leave promptly at 7 PM. MEET: In the Jess Ranch Marketplace parking lot closest to the Jess Ranch Road between the Jess Ranch Canvas and Bed, Bath & Beyond Store, address: 18185 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308. Light post location is 158. Continue on the Orr Museum Rd/262 to a shady gap (6645'). Stop location is 154. Bring: Flashlight & water. Wear: layered clothing and comfortable hiking shoes. For questionnaire please call LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 961-0731. MOJAVE GROUP

FRIDAY 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP CONDITIONING HIKE

Please join me for a 3 to 6 mile conditioning walk (usually 3 miles) beside the Mojave River in Apple Valley. We leave promptly at 7 PM. MEET: In the Jess Ranch Marketplace parking lot closest to the Jess Ranch Road between the Jess Ranch Canvas and Bed, Bath & Beyond Store, address: 18185 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308. Light post location is 158. Continue on the Orr Museum Rd/262 to a shady gap (6645'). Stop location is 154. Bring: Flashlight & water. Wear: layered clothing and comfortable hiking shoes. For questionnaire please call LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 961-0731. MOJAVE GROUP

OCTOBER 27 – NOVEMBER 2
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings

(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

NOV 3 (MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOMM MEETING
Alpine Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall on Feb 3, Apr 7, May 5, Oct 6, Nov 3. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

NOV 4 (TUE) ELECTION DAY • CIVIC DUTY
Don’t forget to vote!

NOV 4 (TUE) 7:30 PM SANTA MARIA GROUP EXCOMM MEETING
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Rdhilds, Rdhilds. ENS 1-110 at California State Info. INFO: LADIES COMMITTEE <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com> - 909-886-7115 to check on weather or any questions. CO-LEADER, KARLA BARFIELD, (760) 985-0782 or <kbarfield2009@yahoo.com>

BIG BEAR GROUP

NOVEMBER 3 – NOVEMBER 9
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings

(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

NOV 3 (MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting program. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

NOV 11 (TUE) 9:00 AM UPPER MARSHALL CANYON HIKE

Things are “looking up” in “Upper” Marshall Canyon. This is a moderate rated, convoluted 4.5 mile RT trek that winds its way via a 750’ elevation gain to the top loop. This trail has some foliage and views on this one, to the north of La Verne, for making this this Regional Park for all to enjoy. Bring: water, sturdy boots, hiking sticks and layered clothing. CONFIRM BY NOV 8, 5:00 PM: CALL LEADER: JEFF WARHOL (909) 985-7686 or email mjeffw@verizon.net or call 909-815-9379, email ruizmaryann@gmail.com.

BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 11 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting monthly or as called. Call part is working on important conservation issues. Please participate: you need a help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimfloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385.

CHAPTER

NOV 14 (FRI) 6:00 PM SAN GORGONIO GROUP HIKE

Please participate: we need your help! INFO: LORI ZAMMOTTI, Conservation Chair, lorez81811@aol.com. PLACE: San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES (951) 314-3283 <escangorp@gmail.com> – CHAPTE

NOV 17 (TUE) 7:00 PM MONTEFIORE GROUP MEETING

Meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 10 (SAT) 7:30 AM PCT SERT B: FULLER RIDGE TO DEVIL’S SLIDE HIKE

This is the final segment of our goal to complete Section B of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in 2014. Starting on Fuller Ridge below the summit of Mt. San Jacinto, the PCT winds around the south face of San Jacinto Mountain, passes through Strawberry Junction, ascends to the Wellman Trail Junction (9000’), then descends to Saddle Junction where we take the Devil’s Slide trail down to Idyllwild. This is a through-hike and will require transporting hikers, and high-clearance vehicles are needed. This is a 16.2 mile through-hike. RATING: Strenuous MEET. We will meet at the U.S. Forest Service Idylwild Ranger Station, 54270 Pine Crest Road, Idyllwild, CA 92549, in the parking lot at 7:30 AM. BRING: Ten essentials, layered clothing, 5 liters of water, lunch, snacks, sunscreen, sunglasses, camera, and trekking poles. CONDITIONS: Contact LEADER, JUDY ATKINSON by calling or texting 909-289-1932 or email djatk57@gmail.com.

BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 10 – NOVEMBER 16
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings

(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

NOV 10 (MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING

NOV 17 (TUE) 7:00 PM MONTEFIORE GROUP MEETING

Monterey meeting program. Call part is working on important conservation issues. Please participate: you need a help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Chair, <kimfloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385.

CHAPTER

NOV 28 (TUE) 6:00 PM MOUNTAIN BIKES GROUP MEETING

Meeting in different locations will be announced. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Rdhilds, Rdhilds. ENS 1-110 at California State Info. INFO: LADIES COMMITTEE <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com> - 909-886-7115 to check on weather or any questions. CO-LEADER, KARLA BARFIELD, (760) 985-0782 or <kbarfield2009@yahoo.com>

SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

NOV 13 (THU) 6:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING

PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Rdhilds, Rdhilds. ENS 1-110 at California State Info. INFO: LADIES COMMITTEE <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com> - 909-886-7115 to check on weather or any questions. CO-LEADER, KARLA BARFIELD, (760) 985-0782 or <kbarfield2009@yahoo.com>

SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

NOV 13 (THU) 6:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING

PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Rdhilds, Rdhilds. ENS 1-110 at California State Info. INFO: LADIES COMMITTEE <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com> - 909-886-7115 to check on weather or any questions. CO-LEADER, KARLA BARFIELD, (760) 985-0782 or <kbarfield2009@yahoo.com>

SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

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PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Rdhilds, Rdhilds. ENS 1-110 at California State Info. INFO: LADIES COMMITTEE <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com> - 909-886-7115 to check on weather or any questions. CO-LEADER, KARLA BARFIELD, (760) 985-0782 or <kbarfield2009@yahoo.com>

SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

CONTINUES ON PAGE 5
NOV 14 (FRI) 8:30 AM  SILENT PEAK VIA JainHike  NOH

This 9.1 mile hike utilizes Forest Service road 3N56 to get to our final destination 6767' Siletz Peak via the San Bernardino National Forest. Meet at the Vons parking lot at 8:30 am. BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 15 (SAT) 7:30 AM  PCT, SECTION D  HIKE

This 11.8 mile hike is segment 11 (Mill Creek Summit to Messenger Flats Campground), in a series of Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) hikes that will encompass all of Section D in 2014. Those individuals completing all thirteen segments will be eligible to receive a recognition patch signifying the accomplishment and the completion of 110.2 miles. From Mill Creek Summit (4910’), the PCT this hike descends west 3.5 miles to Road 4N24 (3600’) north of North Fork Ranger Station. Here the PCT turns north and continues its descent 4.3 miles to Maltos Canyon Campground (2808’). It is another 4.4 miles to Soledad Canyon Road (2237’). RATED: Moderate. BRING: The ten-essentials, sun-protection, 3.0 liters of water, and lunch. MEET: Messenger Flats Campgrounds parking lot at 7:30 AM. RESERVATIONS: LEADER, L.J. FOSTER (951) 845-9440 or eljay709@verizon.net. BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 15 (SAT) 8:30 AM  SOUTH LYNKEN TRAIL, PALM SPRINGS HIKE

This one-way hike offers nice views of Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley and some glimpses into Tahquitz Canyon. The distance is relatively short at 4.5 miles but elevation gain is 850’. Most of the elevation change happens at the beginning and end, and this is the reason the hike is not rated easy. Optional lunch at a local restaurant after the hike is possible. RATED: Easy-Moderate in difficulty. MEET: On the west side of Palm Canyon Drive at Mesquite. A closed car dealership is on the east side. We will leave some cars here and shuttle the remaining cars a short distance to the starting point. Coming from the west on I-10, take Highway 111, which becomes Palm Canyon Drive, most of the way through downtown Palm Springs to Mesquite. You are heading south due south at that point. DRIVING: Take Highway 111 to Palm Canyon Drive. Cottonwood Road to the trailhead. If you are coming from Temecula via 79 south and the 371 turn left from Canyon Drive, most of the way through downtown Palm Springs to Mesquite. You are heading south at that point. DRIVING: Take Highway 111 to Palm Canyon Drive. Cottonwood Road to the trailhead. If you are coming from Temecula via 79 south and the 371 turn left from Cottonwood Road to the trailhead. If you are coming from Temecula via 79 south and the 371 turn left from the road to the trailhead. MEET: Palm Springs, the PCT this hike descends west 5.5 miles to Road 4N32 (4210’) near North Fork Ranger Station. Here the PCT turns north and continues its descent 4.3 miles to Maltos Canyon Campground (2808’). It is another 4.4 miles to Soledad Canyon Road (2237’). RATED: Moderate. BRING: The ten-essentials, sun-protection, 3.0 liters of water, and lunch. MEET: Messenger Flats Campgrounds parking lot at 7:30 AM. RESERVATIONS: LEADER, L.J. FOSTER (951) 845-9440 or eljay709@verizon.net. BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 15 (SAT) 8:30 AM  CEDAR SPRINGS HIKE

Join us on an approximately 7 mile on an easily difficult hike that offers spectacular views of Palm Canyon and the Santa Rosa Mountains to the east and Garner Valley to the west. Hikers will get a look at the extensive fire damage caused by last year’s Mountain Fire. The trail begins by using private property and then narrows, and we will climb a series of switchback trails for 1.3 miles to the junction with the PCT. As of this writing the trails are closed in three of the four directions. Rangers may reopen the Cedar Springs trail east of the PCT in November. If so this is the time to go, hiking through the burned area. If we are unable to use this trail this hike will have about 1700’ of elevation gain/loss. If this trail is closed we will travel south on the PCT for about 1 mile past the junction. This trail offers great desert views and of the Salton Sea. We will also see views of the southern edge of the fire damage, but will not be able to walk through it. Using this trail the elevation gain/loss is reduced to about 1400’. Hikers will need sturdy hiking shoes because the trail is loaded with stones. You will also need Sunscreen, 3 liters of water and lunch. Bring layered clothing, 3M Gore-Tex or similar. From Hemet take Road 4N24 (3600’) north to Lake Hemet toward Garner Valley, Turn left on Morris Ranch Rd. then about 4 miles up the paved road to the trailhead. Continue on Tennessee Rd. 3.9 miles to the 371 turn left from the 371 and travel west toward mountain center for 2.5 miles and turn right on Morris Ranch. RESERVATIONS 7 INFO: contact LEADER BOB AUDIBERT at bob.takeake1@gmail.com or (951) 305-1093. Rain cancels. SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

NOV 15-16 (SAT-SUN)  CRANDO PLAZA EXPLORATORY SERVICE

Prospective antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to climb under. Our service on Saturday will either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate this mobility. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of interesting views in the plains. This is an opportunity to combine carcamping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. LEADER: CRAIG DEUTSCHLE, (310- 477-6670) craig.deutschle@gmail.com, CNRCC DESSERT COMMITTEE

NOV 16 (SUN) 8:30 AM  PCT: SPLINTERS CABIN TO HOLCOMBE CANYON HIKE

Starting Deep creek near Lake Arrowhead, hike the Pacific Crest Trail east from Splitters Cabin Campground. Distant views at the cabin and lake, and a 4 to 5 hour hike that gains 700’ elevation gain and loss. BRING: 2 quarts water, lunch and jacket. Call leader for meeting place to carpool. LEADER: HEATHER SARGEANT 909-336-2836. BIG BEAR GROUP

NOVEMBER 11 – NOVEMBER 17

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (also refer to weekly reoccurring outings and activities)

DEC 2 (TUE) 7:30 PM  SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING

MEETING PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LAD0 SEEKINS <lad0.seekins@gmail.com> (909) 800-3911

DEC 3 (WED) 8:00 AM  MARSHALL CANYON WILDERNESS PARK HIKE

This will be a 10 mile loop hike with the exception of the last 2 miles. The overall elevation gain about 1600 feet, highest point 6767’ Silver Moccasin Campground. Bring layered clothing, water, snacks, camera and sturdy footwear. Our hike will go to some of the outer reaches of the park. RESERVATIONS: LEADER JOE Whyte 909-549-0899 or whytejoe@msn.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DEC 3 (WED) 6:30 PM  BIG BEAR GROUP EXC0M MEETING

MEETING PLACE: jeep ride to trailhead. CONTACT: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. BIG BEAR GROUP

DEC 5 (SAT) 8:00 AM  STODDARD PEAK HIKE

This will be a moderate/strenuous hike up Barren Peak to the to Stoddard Peak (elevation 4264’), 6 miles round trip with 1100 ft. elevation gain. The hike in Barren Peak is easy and goes past some charming cabins. The half mile up Stoddard Peak is a steep scramble. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass will be required for parking at the trailhead. Contact John St. Clair to confirm and direct to trailhead and carpooling meeting place. LEADER: JOHN STCLAIR (909) 305-08300 or john@stclairs.us. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DEC 5 (SAT) 8:00 AM  ARRASTE CANYON HIKE

Approx 5 mile hike exploring parts of lower and upper Arraste Canyon area. Moderate with some gradual climbs. Explore this lusher, local area treasure, enjoy the magnificent views of the valley. Bring layered clothing, water, snacks, camera and hiking poles, wear sturdy hiking shoes. Meeting time 8:30am. MEET: For location and carpooling information please contact: LEADER: CAROL STUBBLEFIELD 760 964 0359 yorkshirerose1@juno.com MOJAVE GROUP

DEC 6 (SAT) 8:00 AM  MECCA HILLS: PAINTED CNYAN/LADDER CNYAN HIKE

This is a MUST hike! The Painted Canyon and Ladder Canyon Loop is in the northeast corner of the Coachella Valley within the Mecca Hills. This hike takes us through twisted and exotic Painted Canyon and theiker uses a series of ladders to climb the Painted Canyon area. This is a 5.0 mile hike gaining 1000’ feet of elevation. Meeting time 8:00am, hike begins at 9:00am. Bring layered clothing, water, snacks, camera and hiking poles, wear sturdy hiking shoes. Meeting time 8:30am. MEET: For location and carpooling information please contact: LEADER: CAROL STUBBLEFIELD 760 964 0359 yorkshirerose1@juno.com MOJAVE GROUP

DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 7

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (also refer to weekly reoccurring outings and activities)

DECEMBER 1st – DECEMBER 7th

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Continued on Page 8 > > >
Group News

**Big Bear Group**

By Ed Wallace, Group Chair

**ELECTIONS**

Below is the ballot for our upcoming elections for members of our executive committee. These members will set the direction of the group for 2015. The executive committee consists of nine members with five elected one year and four on the following year. If you are a member of the Big Bear Group, please vote and become involved.

**Big Bear Group Elections for 2015**

Please vote for no more than five and mail to arrive on or before **November 30, 2014**

Mail to: Big Bear Group Sierra Club
PO Box 3048, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Print your name and address and sign your name on the outside of the envelope along with your signature. In the case of a joint membership, both should print their name and sign. This is required to verify membership.

![Ballot Image]

**(Please vote for 5 or fewer)**

- Ed Wallace
- Claudia Eads
- Don Jordan
- Glenda Akins
- George Watson Jones

**(Please vote for 5 or fewer)**

- Ed Wallace
- Claudia Eads
- Don Jordan
- Glenda Akins
- George Watson Jones

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Those that live in Big Bear can already feel winter starting to make its presence known as temperatures are starting to drop below freezing at nights—which means that our annual potluck holiday party, the Jack Frost Feast is just around the corner. Bring a dish to share.

**OUTINGS**

- A Visit to Ansel Adams Wilderness, by Ed Caliendo, Outings Chair

In late August, a group of seven experienced backpackers visited the Ansel Adams Wilderness located in Northern California, approximately 500+ miles from Los Angeles and our home in the San Bernardino Mountains. The planned trip allowed for two full days of driving to reach and return from the remote wilderness area. The Ansel Adams Wilderness, named after the famous photographer after his death in 1984 is located north of Fresno and Oakhurst, California, off of Hwy 41 and within the Inyo National Park.

The entire Ansel Adams Wilderness spans 231,533 acres. Our visit consisted of visiting only a small 12-mile Lillian Lake Loop. Because of the distance in driving, as well as elevation change to 8810’, we spent our first night at the nearby Bowler Group Campground. The next day we began our trek for the Fernandace trail (7512’) and backpacked 6.4 miles to our future base camp at Staniford Lakes (8810’). See photo below. We camped adjacent to large glacier smoothed rock slabs above Staniford Lake where we enjoyed both colorful sunrises and sunsets.

**CONSERVATION**

Ed Wallace represented the group at the meeting with the representatives and City of Big Bear Lake on a bike and hiking path being planned along Rattle Creek from the Big Bear Lake to Sand Canyon just east of Bear Mountain ski resort. As a part of this project the creek will become more meandering in nature and some of the original wetland will be restored. It is hoped that this path, which parallels Moonridge Blvd., will also help to revitalize the business district along this corridor.

The Big Bear Group continues to participate in the Sawmill Pebble Plain preservation project. Since the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust has acquired the High Timber Ranch Property that borders the Pebble Plain, 15 truckloads of trash have been removed from the property including 44 truck and auto tires, a spa, a fireplace insert, and uncounted numbers of couches, chairs, mattresses and televisions. As this cleanup effort has progressed, many access roads that facilitated trash dumping, illegal wood cutting and degradation of the Sawmill and Villa Grove Pebble Plains have been closed and fencing around these sensitive environmental assets have been repaired. This has mostly been accomplished by a small dedicated group of volunteers. Much more needs to be done. If you would like to be part of this group of action-minded people, please contact Ed Wallace at rushewallace@yahoo.com.

**Mojave Group**

By Jenny Wilder, Group Chair

**OUTINGS**

- A Visit to Ansel Adams Wilderness

In late August, a group of seven experienced backpackers visited the Ansel Adams Wilderness located in Northern California, approximately 500+ miles from Los Angeles and our home in the San Bernardino Mountains. The planned trip allowed for two full days of driving to reach and return from the remote wilderness area. The Ansel Adams Wilderness, named after the famous photographer after his death in 1984 is located north of Fresno and Oakhurst, California, off of Hwy 41 and within the Inyo National Park.

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One of our stranger experiences was dealing with isolation. We saw no other people or contact with the outside world during our five-day stay in the Ansel Adams Wilderness; however, we did see deer and other smaller creatures, but no bears. We saw other backpackers only upon entering and exiting the Wilderness. Five days without contact with the busy world! What a wonderful experience!

If you would like to visit the Ansel Adams Wilderness in 2015, be sure to contact Ed Caliendo, at dogs111@msn.com.

**CONSERVATION**

Ed Wallace represented the group at the meeting with the representatives and City of Big Bear Lake on a bike and hiking path being planned along Rattle Creek from the Big Bear Lake to Sand Canyon just east of Bear Mountain ski resort. As a part of this project the creek will become more meandering in nature and some of the original wetland will be restored. It is hoped that this path, which parallels Moonridge Blvd., will also help to revitalize the business district along this corridor.

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**Mojave Group EXCOM ELECTION FOR 2014 – 2015 PLEASE VOTE!!**

Please vote for no more than 7 persons to serve on the Executive Committee, sign your ballot, and mail it so that it is received no later than **November 30** to:

Jenny Wilder
19607 Sandy Ln, Apple Valley, CA 92308

Susan Stueber________; Carol Wiley______; Bryan Baker________;
Bill Spreng_________; Sheila Garrison_________;
__________________________________________(write in vote);
__________________________________________(write in vote);
__________________________________________(write in vote);

Remember to print your name and address and sign your name on the outside of the envelope so ballots can be verified. If two ballots from a joint membership are received, be sure to print names and address and for each ballot.

Rush for renewable energy on public lands:

The most significant threat to the Mojave Desert at this time is the “gold rush” for renewable energy. Not everyone is able to read the 8,000 page Draft DEIRC and EIR/EIS documents (http://drecp.org/), but together we can make a difference. The deadline for comments is Friday, January 9, 2015, please read as much as you can to become more informed and share your findings with us. Join us at the Executive Committee meetings at 6pm just prior to the general meeting at 7pm on the second Wednesday of every month (except July and August).

Wind farms, solar plants, or National Landscape Conservation System lands? There is growing support to include Wind farms, solar plants, or National Landscape Conservation System lands? There is growing support to include

November 4 is Election Day. Voters in Moreno Valley will have a chance to decide the recall for district 5 and select a new councilmember at the same time as voting on the recall. The person with the highest vote total will become the new council member if the recall passes. Other items on the ballot include electing councilmembers for districts 2 & 4, electing MVUSD school board members, a school bond issue, & reapportionment of the councilmembers’ districts from the current five down to four and the direct election of the mayor. Make sure you read the information about a direct election of the mayor. There is much more in this that the title leads you to believe. All of these are important issues & taking the time to vote makes a difference.

Our fall newsletter will have a ballot for our group elections. Please take time to vote and make a donation to support the Moreno Valley Group’s work. Thank you!

The Moreno Valley Group will be selling 2015 Sierra Club wall and desk calendars to support Sierra Club work. These beautiful calendars (see samples below) make wonderful gifts for family and friends. Please e-mail us at movalygroup@yahoo.com if you would like to purchase some calendars.

The Moreno Valley Group has been following the approval process for the proposed World Logistics Center (WLC). The proposed 41,600,000 square foot warehouse project would put 41,600,000 square feet of warehouses on 2,710 acres of land south of Highway 60. If built, it would share a two-mile border with the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, home to threatened/endangered species as well as more than 20 species of raptors. The final environmental documents may be released sometime in November for all to review. Please plan on attending planning commission and city council public hearings on the WLC.

Donations are needed to help us as we work to provide strong comments on the World Logistic Center project. Your very important donations will and have been used to support our ability to hire experts to review the documents. Any amount is appreciated. Please send your donations to: Sierra Club—Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325 with the memo notation “WLC.” Thank you to all who have made donations to help us as we work to provide strong comments on the World Logistic Center project. Your very important donations will and have been used to support our ability to hire experts to review the documents. Any amount is appreciated. Please send your donations to: Sierra Club—Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325 with the memo notation “WLC.” Thank you to all who have made donations—your strong support makes a difference!

Related to the proposed WLC project, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing the “SR 60 Truck Climbing Lanes Project” through The Badlands east of Moreno Valley. The project would construct truck climbing (eastbound), truck descending lanes (westbound) and make road shoulder improvements. Caltrans held a public hearing and comments were due August 11. Caltrans is still working on addressing the public comments submitted on the project. The Project Development Team will make a decision on the project; but their decision is not final until the environmental review process is complete and the environmental document is approved. The environmental document may be completed during the first quarter of 2015. Information related to the proposed project can be found at the District 8 web page, information below. Contact for the project is: James Shankel, Caltrans, 464 W. Fourth St., 6th Floor Mail Station 827, San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400, email: Climbinglane@dot.ca.gov You should request a full environmental impact report be done to fully analyze all of the project’s impacts and ask that warehouse developers should pay a large portion of the cost instead of having taxpayers pick up the tab. Planning documents can be found at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/projects/region0/60truckclimb/index.htm

Information on the Riverside County General Plan Update, schedule of public outreach & public hearings before the planning commission and county supervisors can be found at http://planning.rclma.org/Portals/0/Production%20Schedule/209.1-1-14.pdf Public outreach meetings will be held January 2015–February 2015 before the final environmental documents are released. Please consult their web page to confirm the dates & locations of all meetings. Contact for more information: Kristi Lovelady, KLOVELAD@rclma.org, tel: (951) 955-0781. E-mail her to be sent all notices of meetings and documents related to the general plan update.

The ProLogis Eucalyptus Industrial Park, a project which would put six distribution warehouses (2,544,419 square feet) on 122 acres of land south of Highway 60 between Moreno Beach Road and Redlands Blvd. The final environmental impact report on the updated project is now available & should be posted on the city’s web site, www.moval.org. The project was continued until the October 14 council meeting. For more information contact: Jeff Bradshaw, Assoc. Planner, City of Moreno Valley, (951) 413-3224, jeffbr@moval.org

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DECEMBER 8 – DECEMBER 14
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring outings and Activities)

DECEMBER 9 (TUE) 9:00 AM POTATO MOUNTAIN HIKE
Let’s “peel” up together and visit the potato. This moderate, 5 mile RUT jaunt, has a 1,200’ elevation gain. It starts off in shady Evey Canyon and after reaching the saddle, we have exposures giving great views of Baseline Valley, Upland, Clarks Peak and Bear Valley. Bring: 3 liters of water, snacks, sun protection, layered clothing. Please call to CONFIRM by DEC 5, 8:00 AM. LEADER: LEFF WAHLON, (909) 985-7668 or jenwa@worldnet.com .

MOJA GROUP

SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

DECEMBER 9 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimfloyd@calstate-freemason. com, 760-533-9921.

CHAPTER

DECEMBER 10 (WED) 6:00 PM MOJA GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except July & August. The public is welcome. PLACE: Tencelica Valley Library, 1800 Pauba Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324. canr@verizon.net.

SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

DECEMBER 13 (SAT) 7:30 AM PCT, SOLEDAD CANYON RD TO AGUA DULCE HIKE
This is the final segment of our PCT Section D challenge (Soledad Canyon Road to Aguadulce). This final segment is 9.7 miles. This hike goes high marks because the last 1.5 miles pass through the spectacular Vasquez Rocks County Park. After leaving Soledad Canyon Road, we quickly ford the Santa Clara River (2,205’) and cross Southern Pacific railroad tracks (2243’) before reaching a trio of power lines and Young Canyon road (2960’). The PCT turns NW for 4.9 miles to a tunnel under Antelope Valley Highway (143727V) in Escondido Canyon road (2505’). Only one more mile to reach Aguadulce post office and general store, which was Section D ends. RATED: Moderate. Those individuals completing all three segments will be eligible to receive a recognition patch signifying the accomplishment and the completion of the 350 mile—150 miles each of the PCT, BRIDG the ten-essentials, sun-protection, 2.5 liters of water, and lunch. MEET: U.S. Post Office in Victorville, CA located off of Hwy 14 and Soledad Canyon Road, in the parking lot at 7:30 AM. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER, J. FOSTER (951) 851-3691 or elijaharizona.com. ISBN: 1-932587-10-1.

DECEMBER 12 (SUN) 8:00 AM SANTA ANA RIVER BOTTOM BIRD WALK

SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

DECEMBER 13 (SAT) 9:00 AM WEST FORK MOJA RIVER RIDGE HIKE
This easy 5 mile outing has wonderful views across Summit Valley including the River and the historic Los Flora Ranch. On the ridge there is an abundance of wildlife and wild life “sign”. It is an exposed area so participants must bring warm clothing. Also, water, a snack, sturdy footwear and a camera. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum, 11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 at 9am. Any questions call LEADER NORMAN BLOSSOM on 760-912-3725.

MOJA GROUP

DECEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 21
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring outings and Activities)

DECEMBER 16 (TUE) 9:00 AM GREEN VALLEY LAKE RIDGE SNOWSHOE/HIKE
Join us for a snowshoe/hike around Green Valley Lake with beautiful views of the high desert. We will hike or snowshoe depending on conditions. Distance: about 5 miles, easy to moderate. No experience necessary. BRING: your own snowshoes, layered clothing, water, and snack. MEET in Green Valley Lake across from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92541) at 9:00 A.M. RESERVATION & INFO: call, weather conditions and to confirm you are coming. LEADER: SANDY ELIUS, 909-867-7115 or c3ellei67@gmail.com . CO-LEADER, KARLA BARTON, 760-805-0782 or ekbarton2008@yahoo.com.

MOJA GROUP

DECEMBER 16 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except August. This group is welcome to all refreshments will be served at the Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. The 2013 September meeting will be held at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont and not at the church. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379 or ruizmaryann@gmail.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DECEMBER 20 (SAT) 7:30 AM JTNP, LOST HORSE MINE LOOP TRAIL HIKE
This hike takes you past the abandoned stamp mill of the Lost Horse Mine about 2 miles from the parking area, then climbs a small ridge for some really great views of Joshua Tree National Park, including Pleasant Valley and volcanic Malapai Hill. From there, we’ll head past a few smaller claims, up another ridge, and across pinyon/juniper habitat which leads to a fairly flat wash lined with Joshua trees and nolina. This is an 8.4 mile loop hike so we’ll end where we park without backtracking. RATING: Moderate due to relatively rough trail segments. MEET: We will meet at the Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center. From there we will go south through the parking lot to 7:30 AM. BRING: Ten essentials, layered clothing, 3 liters of water, lunch, snacks, sun protection, sunglasses, camera, and trekking poles. Rain or snow cancels. RESERVATIONS: CALL LEADER, L. JOSTER AT (909) 948-6440 or elizjester@verizon.net.

BIG BEAR GROUP

COMING UP
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring outings and Activities)

FEB 8-10 (SUN-TUE) 8:30 AM JOSHUA TREE SAMPLER CAMP CAR CAMP
Save these dates and come out to Joshua Tree, spend Sunday through Monday camping at Sheep Pass Group Campsite. We will hike, explore, relax and have a “Best Camping food Cook-off” together. This will be a Semi-Backpacking trip recommended for those with some camping experience. CE: $15 per person. RESERVATIONS: Contact啁Carol, caroleke31@yahoo.com. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right.

NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES
The following activities, meetings & events are neither sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities & makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

NON-SIERRA CLUB RECURRING WEEKLY & MONTHLY MEETINGS (LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)

(1ST FRID) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE CLUB EVENT
UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB Note: there will be no meeting July 4. Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST $3 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 gseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY PELLOR (909) 864-2309

(3RD WED) 7:30 PM AUBUDON SOCIETY MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAM: A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Come and enjoy the show! The meeting and socializing begins at 7:30 PM. The program starts at 8 PM. Members and guests are welcome. The meeting is held at the Center for Environmental Excellence located at 240 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit 110 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYER, (714) 779-2201.

(3RD FRID) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE CLUB EVENT
UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB

library.yahoo.com>.  SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

LIBRARY, 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324. canr@verizon.net.

SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

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NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

NOV 7 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $3 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right.
INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 lgseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309

NOV 19 (WED) 7:30 PM AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING MEETING NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAM: A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Come early to browse the gift tables & socialize. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit 110 at California St. INFO: DORI MIEYERS, (714) 779-2201.

NOV 21 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $3 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right.
INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 lgseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309

DEC 5 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $3 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right.
INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 lgseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309

DEC 17 (WED) 6:30 PM AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING MEETING NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY PROGRAM: A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Come early to browse the gift tables & socialize. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit 110 at California St. INFO: DORI MIEYERS, (714) 779-2201.

DEC 19 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: $3 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right.
INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 lgseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309

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San Diego Chapter - Address:

Sierra Club Creative "Take Action" with the San Diego Chapter

By Teri Biancardi

A three-mile hike on the Agua Caliente Trail in the Coachella Valley, led by Pam Nelson, a former high school science teacher herself, met with a number of teachers to help with their environmental education meet-up for Outdoor Families, our offshoot of the Sierra Club.

Specific to Outdoor Families, our environmental education meet-up for homeschooled students, we’ve had a well-attended apple picking excursion in Sunflower Summit and later in October we’ll visit Pelzer Farm in Temecula wine country, followed by a docent-led Santa Margarita River hike. For more information on this offshoot of our group, go to http://www.meetup.com/Outoor-Families/

T he Santa Margarita group kicked off its first meeting after the summer break with a presentation on a topic no Southern Californian can ignore — the drought. There was not a lot of comfort in what our Rancho Water representative had to say, but it’s clear that this third year of drought is focusing minds and changing behavior. People have been ripping out their lawns in droves, maybe in response to high water bills, or because of the tariff rebates, or both, but Rich Williamson told the audience the message of conservation is getting through, none too soon, as the prospect of a wet El Niño year fades.

We’re continuing the theme of water with a presentation on climate-friendly landscaping for October, and in general, we’re very excited about the speakers and subjects we have planned for the next eight months.

Our monthly meetings are only a small part of what the Santa Margarita Group gets up to, however. In September, Gary Marsalane led an early morning 9-mile in Idyllwild, while our newest hike leader Margaret Meyncke led a fun and gentle two-and-a-half mile hike on the San Juan Loop trail which even managed to fit in a trip to a candy store! She’s also leading a three-miler on October 19th on the Agua Caliente Trail in Warner Springs which is a section of the PCT. Margaret’s hikes are aimed at visitors and students.

Specific to Outdoor Families, our educational environment meet-up for homeschooled students, we’ve had a well-attended apple picking excursion in Sunshine Summit and later in October we’ll visit Pelzer Farm in Temecula wine country, followed by a docent-led Santa Margarita River hike. For more information on this offshoot of our group, go to http://www.meetup.com/Outoor-Families/

There are two Sierra Club meetings a month, one on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. The meetings will be held in the same location, and are open to the public. There is a $3 donation to help pay for the room.

Santa Margarita Group
By Teri Biancardi

We’ve also got a bike ride to Oceanside and back on the San Luis Rey River trail on October 19th, and not to be outdone, our Activities Director Laurie Webster has organized a spooky-tacular event for that same evening, an Old Town Temecula Candlelight Walking/Ghost Tour, at 6:30 pm. Then on the 25th we have a challenging hike along the Fuller Ridge Trail in Idyllwild again. Finally, Bob Audiberg is leading a 7-miler at Cedar Springs on Nov 15th.

Specific to Outdoor Families, our environmental education meet-up for homeschooled students, we’ve had a well-attended apple picking excursion in Sunflower Summit and later in October we’ll visit Pelzer Farm in Temecula wine country, followed by a docent-led Santa Margarita River hike. For more information on this offshoot of our group, go to http://www.meetup.com/Outoor-Families/

Back in the city, the SMG has been asked by local middle and high school teachers to help with their environmental units. Pam Nelson, a former high school science teacher herself, met with a number of teachers and shared ideas — she’s also hooking them up with other experts who would be willing to come speak to students.

The SMG also had a table at the “September Walk” for the “Wild” event in Claremont — which was an important event celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

Continued on Page 10 >>

If you want to understand More about Global Warming... WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES!!
The troops rallied when the CEC initiated its review of the Palen power towers. Joshua Tree National Park was the first letter enumerating the project’s impacts to resident Golden Eagles and other protected species, as well as the fact that the painfully bright light from the towers would be visible from a vast proportion of the Park’s pristine wilderness areas. The Colorado River Indian Tribes hired the top law firm of Shute Mihaly to defend the lawsuit. This area is threatened by a foreign power tower could be 28,000 birds a year.

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A self-described “poetic-tramp-geologist-botanist and ornithologist-naturalist!”, John Muir was such a well-rounded guy, nearly everyone has something in common with him. The real question is, just how similar is the father of our National Parks to you? Go through the checklist below to find out how you match up. We guarantee you’ve got at least a couple things in common with our beloved Sierra Club founder.

The Muir Checklist

You...

__ are self-taught.
__ are an inventor.
__ are consumed with an interest in botany.
__ have published your own book.
__ have liked the Sierra Nevada mountain range.
__ prefer hands-on learning.
__ have been to Yosemite National Park.
__ are Scottish.
__ write articles on nature or other environmental topics.
__ have three siblings.
__ enjoy mountain climbing.
__ have floated down the Sacramento River.
__ consider yourself an adventurer.
__ are a lecturer or have spoken in a guest lecture series.
__ are married.
__ are a rancher or fruit farmer.
__ are the recipient of an honorary degree.
__ have traveled to Alaska.
__ consider yourself a poet.
__ have a beard.
__ have walked across America.
__ have something that has been named after you.
__ have traveled to other countries.
__ love the Sierra Club.
__ prefer hiking with a minimal amount of supplies.

Finished?

Now it’s time to tally up your score and find out just how Muir you are! If you checked:

Between 1 and 10 items:

You are well on your way to being just as eclectic as Mr. Muir! Take a look at some of the great memories, see some interesting places, and make new friends along the way.

Between 11 and 19 items:

You are well on your way to being just as ecletic as Mr. Muir! Take a look at some of the things that you didn’t get checked off the list. Do any of them sound appealing to you? Well, then, perhaps it’s time to use some of his experiences to inspire some of your own. Anyone has the potential to be a citizen of the universe; just let your love for nature guide you and keep going after what makes you awesome and unique.

Between 20 and 25 items:

You could be John Muir’s twin! That’s right, my friend, you have so much in common with the wilderness prophet you could be two peas in a pod. Whether it’s hiking, writing, educating, or generally just reveling in the wonders of the natural world, you are an adventurer. Now get out there and share your passion with friends, family, and anyone else who will listen.

Tahquitz Group

By Jeff Morgan, Group Chair

SAVING CHINO CANYON

Chino Canyon is the last undeveloped alluvial fan in the urbanized areas of the Coachella Valley. Located at the northern entrance to Palm Springs west of Highway 111 and easily viewed from the iconic Palm Springs Visitor Center and Tramway Road. It is the perfect backdrop to the increasingly popular and rapidly developing city.

The Canyon was first inhabited by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and is named after Pedro Chino, a powerful shaman who made his home there.

Developers have always eyed the canyon, first it was for water for a growing Palm Springs and a road was constructed to facilitate the extraction process. This was relatively minor and caused little immediate change. The next major challenge was the construction of The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway which was highly controversial and was strongly opposed by environmental groups, but to no avail and the tram opened in 1963. Around this time, Riverside County Flood Control built a levee that further fragmented the Canyon. It would be more than 25 years until the next serious threat.

In 1989 another developer, Mark Briggs, envisioned “Shadowrock,” a major golf/hotel/housing project and purchased 960 acres in the heart of the Canyon, along with a smaller parcel along Highway 111. After discussions with the city, a Development Agreement was announced that would allow this project to be built on both sides of Tramway Road. As part of this Agreement the steep and rocky hillside slopes to the north and south were deferred to the city as “mitigation.” Local residents and environmental organizations led by the Tahquitz Group of The Sierra Club reviewed the development plans and it was quickly determined this would be the beginning of the destruction of Chino Canyon. We were not about to sit back and let this happen.

When the Agreement started to move forward, the (then) California Department of Fish and Game filed suit against the project on the premise that it would harm or cause the death of Peninsular bighorn sheep in the area. Ultimately, the suit was unsuccessful and the development agreement was extended until 2006. In 1997 the Tahquitz Group with Chapter support filed suit against the project extension and after a long drawn out battle in the courts the suit and subsequent appeal, it was not successful and the developer continued to refine his plans.

In 2004 a group of citizens concerned about Shadowrock and other major hillside developments formed Save Our Mountains, this group was dedicated to limiting growth in the hills and mountains surrounding Palm Springs. The tactics used were the election process and initiatives and referendums were placed on the ballot in 2005. This was partially successful and another development in south Palm Springs was rejected by the voters. The second measure which would have prohibited all large hillside developments, including Shadowrock, failed by a narrow margin. Also in 2004 another organization was formed by a group of citizens “Friends of Palm Springs Mountains” which was also dedicated protecting local hillsides and mountains. This group would eventually become key players in the Chino Canyon battle.

In 2006, the City Planning Commission voted 5-0 rejecting any extension as it was not in compliance with the current zoning ordinance. The City Council then voted 3-1 and approved another 10 year extension. This resulted in a further lawsuit by the Tahquitz Group and the Center for Biological Diversity particularly regarding bighorn sheep issues. Also at this time Save Our Mountains was planning for the next election and with more than enough signatures gathered for a measure to be placed on the ballot to overturn the council decision. In the following election in 1997, the voters with a 60-40 margin rejected the city council decision and also voted for major changes in the city council.

At this time a private investment company acquired the Shadowrock properties and again threatened to start the development process, though they eventually realized that this would be extremely difficult. Friends of Palm Springs Mountains then stepped in and hired Pete Dangermond, a former director of California State Parks and a very experienced facilitator in purchasing lands for conservation, having worked on preserving the Indian Canyons in Palm Springs and similar work for the Riverside Lands Conservancy among many others. Pete saw this not just as Shadowrock, but in the big picture as Chino Canyon as a whole and began negotiations with many landowners in the area. At the same time, he was consulting with Federal and State wildlife agencies and the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy to bring together funding sources if land was available from willing sellers.

The first success was the purchase of 210 acres along Highway 111 which included Angel Cove and Shiprock which was scheduled for a major residential development. The Friends, pleaded with this success, continued negotiations with the investment company (Pete Dangermond and his assistant, Karin Winters) and eventually after much wrangling over price, legal issues and terms of sale, the Shadowrock properties were finally purchased and the sale recently closed. Along with City-owned conservation lands, more than 75% of Chino Canyon is now preserved. Further acquisitions are being negotiated.

In conclusion, preserving Chino Canyon is an exercise in persistence, tenacity and determination, with strong support of the residents of Palm Springs and judicious use of the legal and political systems.

Jeff Morgan is also a board member of Friends of Palm Springs Mountains. He can be reached at jmorgan@acs.com

Palm and Pine

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Tahquitz Group Excomm Election

November 30, 2014

Please vote for no more than three candidates, and mail in by December 31, 2014, to POB 4944, Palm Springs, CA 92263.

Please also sign your name on the outside of the envelope. Thanks!

Jeff Morgan       Kathy Kelley       Joan Taylor
At the Sierra Club stage at 75th St., Club president David Scott, Beyond Coal director Mary Anne Hitt, national program director Sarah Hodgdon, former president Allison Chin, and Congressman Keith Ellison of Minnesota were among the speakers, and members of the Sierra Student Coalition fired up the crowd with call-and-response cheers like, “What do we want?” “Clean energy!” “When do we want it?” “Now!”

“We’re not going to tolerate lies and obstruction! We’re not going to sit back and let a climate catastrophe happen!” said Sierra Club Board president David Scott, above, at a Sierra Club rally on Central Park West just before the start of the People’s Climate March in New York City.

“Social justice demands action,” Scott said as the crowd pressed in. “For people in low-lying nations, for indigenous people in the Arctic, and for many others, climate catastrophe isn’t some far-off threat. It has already started.”

“We have solutions,” he said to cheers and applause as the crowd swelled in numbers and energy. “What we need now is the political will.”

“What do we want?” Scott shouted. “Climate justice!” the crowd roared back.

“When do we want it?”

“Now!”

Scott then turned the stage over to fellow emcees Karissa Gerhke and BoRa Kim of the Sierra Student Coalition, who introduced several more speakers, including former president Allison Chin. Ten of the fifteen members of the Club’s Board of Directors -- vice-president Spencer Black, Loren Blackford, Lane Boldman, Michael Dorsey, Jim Dougherty, Chuck Frank, Jessica Helm, Robin Mann, Susana Reyes, and Scott -- participated in the march.

But the Board set the stage for the Sierra Club’s deep involvement with the event months beforehand. “Back in May, we voted to postpone both our meeting, both of which would have conflicted with the People’s Climate March,” says Spencer Black. “This sent a strong message to Club members of the importance of the march.”

Board members played an active role in publicizing and promoting the march in their states, both internally and with partner groups, and several members contributed financially to help with transportation costs. Typical was Board member Chuck Frank, who helped sponsor several Club members to attend the march and rode the overnight bus from Chicago to New York.

“As a Board we supported the Club’s deep involvement with what was a very significant strategic opportunity,” says Robin Mann. “Our goal from the start was to have a major mobilization right before the UN Climate Summit and partner with a broad diversity of civic organizations to make the march reflect our values of inclusiveness and commitment to climate justice.”

Mann’s involvement leading up to the march was also typical of Board members. She recruited an environmental justice organization with which her local group was partnering, she helped captain a bus to New York City, and she was deeply involved in local and chapter recruitment efforts in the weeks leading up to the march.

And the work and commitment paid off, as more than 25,000 Sierra Club members participated in the march — the largest-ever Sierra Club gathering. Meanwhile, Sierra Club volunteers and staff helped organize hundreds of solidarity events around the country the same weekend as the big New York march.

“I think we made an emphatic statement to global leaders and the world,” says Scott. “And we were involved from the get-go.”

“Clean energy!” “When do we want it?” “Now!”

“Climate justice!” the crowd roared back.

“When do we want it?”

“Now!”

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Join us as Jeff Morgan, Chairman of our Sierra Club Tahquitz Group, will provide a first-hand account of the efforts involved in preventing the destruction of beautiful Chino Canyon. The Tahquitz Group covers the Coachella and Morongo Valleys.

The meeting will be held on December 2nd, 7:30 PM, at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands.

Chino Canyon is the last undeveloped alluvial fan in the urbanized areas of the Coachella Valley. Local residents and environmental organizations, led by the Tahquitz Group, reviewed the proposed Shadowrock development plan and quickly determined this would be the beginning of the destruction of Chino Canyon. They were not about to sit back and let this happen.

Prior to this meeting, we encourage readers to turn back to page 11 and check out Jeff’s detailed account of this important effort. We hope to see you on December 2nd!!!